

Application No.: 09/980,910

Docket No.: NY-DNAG 224-US

IN THE CLAIMS

1-50 (Canceled)

51. (new) A method for applying a phosphate coating to a metallic surface comprising wetting the surface with an aqueous, acidic phosphating solution and drying the phosphating solution on the coated surface to form a crystalline-coating on said metallic surface, wherein the phosphating solution comprises 26 to 60 g/l of zinc ions; 0.5 to 40 g/l of manganese ions; and 50 to 300 g/l of phosphate ions, calculated as  $P_2O_5$ .

52. (new) A method for applying a phosphate coating to a metallic surface comprising wetting the metallic surface with an aqueous, acidic phosphating solution and drying of the phosphating solution to form a crystalline coating on the metallic surface, wherein the phosphating solution comprises 10 to 60 g/l of zinc ions; 0.5 to 40 g/l of manganese ions; 50 to 300 g/l of phosphate ions, calculated as  $P_2O_5$ ; and one of 0.5 to 120 g/l of peroxide ions, calculated as  $H_2O_2$  or 0.5 to 50 g/l of at least one of a polymer, a copolymer or a cross polymer.

53. (new) A method according to claim 51, wherein the phosphating solution is free or substantially free of nickel or contains up to 20 g/l of nickel ions.

54. (new) A method according to claim 51, wherein the phosphating solution contains polymers, copolymers and/or cross polymers, in particular of N-containing heterocyclic compounds, preferably of vinyl pyrrolidones.

55. (new) A method according to claim 51, wherein a phosphating solution is used in which the ratio of the sum of cations to the phosphate ions, calculated as  $P_2O_5$ , lies in the range of 1:1 to 1:8.

56. (new) A method according to claim 51, wherein an amount of phosphating solution in the range from 1 to 12 ml/m<sup>2</sup> is applied to the metal parts for drying.

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57. (new) A method according to claim 51, wherein a layer having a layer weight for the precipitated and dried phosphate layer in the range from 0.1 to 5 g/m<sup>2</sup> is formed with the phosphating solution.

58. (new) A method according to claim 51, wherein the phosphating solution is applied to the metal part by spraying, by roller application, by flooding and subsequent squeezing off, by splashing and subsequent squeezing off or by dipping and subsequent squeezing off.

59. (new) A method according to claim 51, wherein the liquid film formed on the metal part with the phosphating solution is dried on the surface of the metal part at temperatures in the range from 20 to 120°C with respect to PMT temperatures.

60. (new) A method according to claim 51, wherein a phosphate layer having the following composition is formed:

free or substantially free of nickel or up to a content of 10% by weight nickel;

5 to 40% by weight Zn,

1.5 to 14% by weight Mn, and

20 to 70% by weight phosphate, calculated as P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>.

61. (new) A method according to claim 51, wherein after drying a first phosphating solution wherein the metal parts are wetted with a second aqueous, acidic phosphating solution, this second solution being free or substantially free of nickel, or containing up to 20 g/l of nickel ions in the phosphating solution and 0 to 20 g/l of zinc ions, 0 to 5 g/l manganese ions, and 5 to 50 g/l of phosphate ions, calculated as P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>.

62. (new) A method according to claim 51 wherein before wetting with the first and/or second phosphating solution, the metal parts are wetted with an activating solution or activating suspension.

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63. (new) A method according to claim 51 wherein the first phosphating solution contains at least 0.3 mg/l of copper ions, and the second phosphating solution which is optionally used contains 0.1 to 50 mg/l of copper ions.

64. (new) A method according to claim 51 wherein a first and/or second phosphating solution is used in which the A-value, as ratio of the free acid to the total content of the phosphate ions, lies in the range from 0.03 to 0.6.

65. (new) A method according to claim 51 wherein the first and/or second phosphating solution contains at least one catalyst such as, for example, a peroxide, a substance based on nitroguinidine, based on nitrobenzene sulphonic acid or based on hydroxyalamine, a chlorate, a nitrate, a perborate or an organic nitro compound, such as p-nitrotoluene sulphonic acid.

66. (new) A method according to claim 51 wherein the first and/or second phosphating solution contains a peroxide admixture, preferably  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  in a concentration in the range from 1 to 100 g/l, calculated as  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ .

67. (new) A method according to claim 51 wherein the first and/or second phosphating solution has a content of at least one compound based on perboric acid, lactic acid, tartaric acid, citric acid and/or a chemically related hydroxy carboxylic acid.

68. (new) A method according to claim 51 wherein the first and/or second phosphating solution has a content of ions of aluminum, boron, iron, hafnium, molybdenum, silicon, titanium, zirconium, fluoride and/or complex fluoride in free and/or bound form.

69. (new) A method according to claim 51 wherein the first and/or second phosphating solution is applied at a temperature in the range from 10 to 80°C.

70. (new) A method according to claim 51, wherein a passivating solution is applied directly to a phosphate layer, in particular by spraying, dipping or rolling.

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71. (new) A method according to claim 51, wherein the first and/or second phosphate layer which has died on to the metal part is wetted with an oil, a dispersion or a suspension, in particular a deforming oil or anticorrosive oil and/or a lubricant.

72. (new) A method according to claim 51, wherein an oil coating or lubricant coating which is possibly present is removed from or out of the first or second phosphate layer respectively.

73. (new) A method according to claim 51, wherein the metal parts which have been provided with a first and/or second phosphate layer are coated with a lacquer paint, with another type of organic coating and/or with a layer of adhesive, and possibly deformed, in which case the metal parts which have been coated in this way can additionally be glued, welded, and/or connected in another way to other metal parts.

74. (new) A method according to claim 51 wherein the metal surface was first provided with at least a first phosphate layer either before or not until after the deformation and/or assembly.

75. (new) The method of claim 51, wherein the dried phosphate layer has a thickness of from 0.2 to 5 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

76. (new) A method according to claim 68, wherein at least one of the first or second phosphating solution has a content of 0.01 to 5 g/l of fluoride in free or bound form.

77. (new) A method for applying a phosphate coating to a metallic surface comprising wetting the surface with an aqueous, acidic phosphating solution and drying the phosphating solution on the coated surface to form a coating on said metallic surface, wherein the phosphating solution comprises 26 to 60 g/l of zinc ions; 0.5 to 40 g/l of manganese ions; and 50 to 300 g/l of phosphate ions, calculated as P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, wherein a layer having a layer weight for the precipitated and dried phosphate layer in the range from 0.1 to 5 g/m<sup>2</sup> is formed with the phosphating solution, wherein the ratio of cations to P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> is 1:1.2 to 1:7.

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78. (new) A method for applying a phosphate coating to a metallic surface comprising wetting the metallic surface with an aqueous, acidic phosphating solution and drying of the phosphating solution to form a coating on the metallic surface, wherein the phosphating solution comprises 10 to 60 g/l of zinc ions; 0.5 to 40 g/l of manganese ions; 50 to 300 g/l of phosphate ions, calculated as  $P_2O_5$ ; and one of 0.5 to 120 g/l of peroxide ions, calculated as  $H_2O_2$  or 0.5 to 50 g/l of at least one of a polymer, a copolymer or a cross polymer, wherein a layer having a layer weight for the precipitated and dried phosphate layer in the range from 0.1 to 5  $g/m^2$  is formed with the phosphating solution, wherein the ratio of cations to  $P_2O_5$  is 1:1.2 to 1:7.

79. (new) The method of claim 78, wherein a layer having a layer weight for the precipitated and dried phosphate layer in the range from 0.2 to 5  $g/m^2$  is formed with the phosphating solution.

80. (new) The method of claim 78, wherein the content of managanese ions ranges from 5 to 40 g/l.

81. (new) The method of claim 51, wherein the content of managanese ions ranges from 5 to 40 g/l.

82. (new) A method for applying a phosphate coating to a metallic surface comprising wetting the surface with an aqueous, acidic phosphating solution and drying the phosphating solution on the coated surface to form a coating on said metallic surface, wherein the phosphating solution comprises 26 to 60 g/l of zinc ions; 0.5 to 40 g/l of manganese ions; and 50 to 300 g/l of phosphate ions, calculated as  $P_2O_5$ , wherein a layer having a layer weight for the precipitated and dried phosphate layer in the range from 0.1 to 5  $g/m^2$  is formed with the phosphating solution, and contacting the resultant coated metallic surface with a second phosphating solution.

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83. (new) A method for applying a phosphate coating to a metallic surface comprising wetting the metallic surface with an aqueous, acidic phosphating solution and drying of the phosphating solution to form a coating on the metallic surface, wherein the phosphating solution comprises 10 to 60 g/l of zinc ions; 0.5 to 40 g/l of manganese ions; 50 to 300 g/l of phosphate ions, calculated as  $P_2O_5$ ; and one of 0.5 to 120 g/l of peroxide ions, calculated as  $H_2O_2$  or 0.5 to 50 g/l of at least one of a polymer, a copolymer or a cross polymer, and contacting the resultant coated metallic surface with a second phosphating solution.